

WALT - I HAVEN'T RECEIVED
Christmas 74

WOOSIER ARCHIVES
(74 CK STANDBY)

YET!

BMR4MRA MAR XXV

BERSERKER 25

Dec. 11, 1974

This special Christmas issue of Berserker is published by Doug Ronson, with art work by Heather Smith. The address of the above persons is 864 Ingersoll Ct., Mississauga, Ont. L5J 2S1, Phone 416-822-2274. Game openings are non-existent at this time but fools may sub. at 7/\$1.00.

The most startling news in the hobby of late is the disappearance of The Fighter's Home. Maybe I scared them off when they realized the parody in Berserker 21 was all true! But seriously, the disappearance of the zine means that 21 games will have to be found new homes and that isn't something to joke about.

Note to players and other fools receiving this zine:

Beginning early next year Robert Correll, Harry Drews and I will be starting a new zine yet to be named. It will run about 10 pages and with the writing skills of Harry and others I think it should be pretty good.

Anyway, the important thing is that one of the games will be transferred to the new zine. It will be run on four week deadlines and prophetic moves will be used. I will leave it up to you to decide which game will be moved. With your next orders please vote on which zine you would like to play your game in. Also please say so if you will resign if prophetics are used for your game. There will be no extra cost except that subs for 1974HF would be converted to the sub rate of the new zine (around 6/\$1.00).

Following is an article I stole from our school newsletter. Everyone I know found it enjoyable and I hope you do too.

AND VISIONS OF ORBITALS...

Rumour has it (and HAS had it for the past few centuries) that way up in the area of the North Pole, where temperatures rarely rise above 60 below (or about there) there lives this senile old hermit who goes by the name of 'Santa Claus' (sounds Swedish to me - and you never can tell with those Swedes). Not only that, but with him he's got a gang of parolled munchkins who run around at his command 364 out of 365 days of the year building more stuff than could possibly fit into all the Eaton's stores this side of Cambodia. And to top it all off, on the night of December 24 every year, they load all this haul on to ONE (count 'em - ONE!) oversized toboggan and a

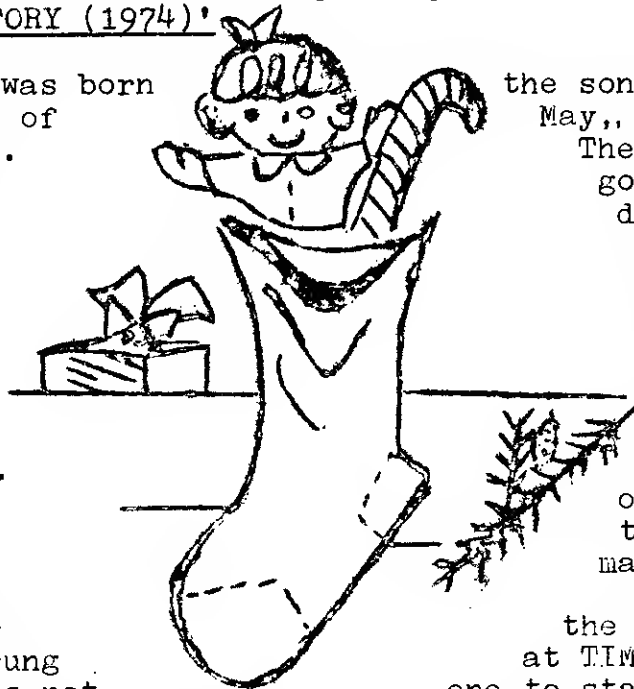
team of glow-in-the-dark reindeer (I ask you - has anyone ever REALLY seen a reindeer?) PULL the whole thing off into the SKY, and in less than 5 hours, have the whole thing dropped off - a little at each house all the way around the world (a remarkable feat in this day and age - considering that the population of the earth doubles about every 30 years). And they all make it back just in time for the sun to rise (otherwise they'd all melt) and start to do it all over again for another year!

Fantasies such as these begin in times of national emergency or trouble as a means of soothing disillusioned minds. Now don't get me wrong - I have nothing against a little fantasizing, but in this age of technological advancement, this tale comes across as dated. And yet we continue to force feed it into the eager minds of our children who take what you say as the gospel truth. And what a real let down it is when you find out that it's not true - and you wonder if you can ever trust your parents again. I am surprised that no one has ever noticed it before, but the age of defiance and rebellion in youths today is at approximately the same age that they discover that there is no Santa Claus.

The real problem with the 'Santa Claus' fable is that it is out of date. Why use a sleigh when you could ride in a Tri-Star? It's a known fact that a mechanized assembly line outproduces Munchkins 50 to 1. And who ever heard of a 7 day work week? Too much has been left unanswered to be believable. And so it is with great pleasure that we present our 'REVISED CHRISTMAS STORY (1974)'

Samual J. Clausowski was born Clausowski on the 3rd of east side of New York. one, but Sammy was a with the pressure of his parents, and vow- them out one day by them that they had Sammy's parents knew little chance of but they didn't want pride, and so they needed a new icemaker. to be outdone by any- ised to his parents . them the biggest ice- imagine.

Sammy left home after a job on the lowest rung watchman. But Sam was not long period of time, and it was edly put out a fire in the boiler room that he was promoted to messenger boy. After a month of this he moved up to Junior Executive in charge of Advertizing (due to a mistake he spotted on a cheque which said \$1,000 instead of \$1.00).. It was at this point in his career that Sam changed his name to Samual Claus (it was really amazing the amount of ridicule someone with a name like his got back then). During the next two years of his existance, Claus worked his way up to the highest rung of success at TIME - Chairman of the Board. And now was the time to finally fulfill his obligation to his parents - to give them their giant icemaker. It was a glorious day in New York. All stores had been closed in honour of Icemaker Day, and hundreds of thousands of people had lined the streets that morning for the Sammy Claus Parade. There were only two cars in the whole parade - one holding Sammy and another with the owners of the ice machine. The parade ended outside the TIME building and it was on the



the son of Irma and Max May,, 1923, in the lower The family was a poor good natured boy, even depression. He loved ed one day to help buying something for always wanted. that there was him making good, to hurt their son's told him that they Sammy was one never one and so he prom- that he would buy maker that they could

the depression and got at TIME magazine as night one to stay at one job for a one night after he singlehand-

edly put out a fire in the boiler room that he was promoted to messenger boy. After a month of this he moved up to Junior Executive in charge of Advertizing (due to a mistake he spotted on a cheque which said \$1,000 instead of \$1.00).. It was at this point in his career that Sam changed his name to Samual Claus (it was really amazing the amount of ridicule someone with a name like his got back then). During the next two years of his existance, Claus worked his way up to the highest rung of success at TIME - Chairman of the Board. And now was the time to finally fulfill his obligation to his parents - to give them their giant icemaker.

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doorstep that Sammy signed the deed that gave him ownership of this magnificent gift. But just as he finished signing the deed, he was handed a telegram. Both of Sammy's parents had just been killed in a gun fight while delivering toys for needy children to a Salvation Army Depot. That was enough to send Sammy into shock. After all - what would you do with the North Pole if nobody wanted it?

Sammy disappeared and was next heard of six years later. He had been spending his time in his wintry hide-a-way, studying the philosophy of the Maharishi Yogi (the very same one that John Paul George and Richard were seeing).. In fact, he was so enchanted with the Maharishi that he decided to adopt the first name 'Santa', and begin to preach his own special philosophy (after all - Cassius Clay changed his name - and someone with the name Muhammed has alot more influence than someone with the name Clay).. And so the Maharishi Santa Claus preached his beliefs and begged people to follow him in his search for truth, peace and a Salvation Army depot with blood stains on it's doorstep. And Claus did not believe in material wealth. He wanted all people to give away all that they owned to their neighbours. And the people listened to him. Not because he made sense to them - but because they felt sorry for this poor man who had had all these problems - and the North Pole on top of that..

Historians today think that Santa (Samual) Claus was never really recovered from the shock of his parents dying. They never would have discovered this - except for one tiny flaw in his religion. It was fine to rid yourself of your material goods by giving them away - but if the whole world is trying to do this - you end up with a world war. You see - if you give someone something, that would diminish your goods, but that person you gave it to would have one more thing to pawn off on someone else. This went on for 6 months before anyone realized what was going on - and finally a law was introduced. Giving away of material good could only be done on one day a year - December 25. And to this day this is still the custom. Nearly every one has forgotten about the Maharishi - but if you take a trip up to the north pole some day - you'll be sure to find him - just look for the guy trying to sell you a used North Pole!

Yes, readers - that is the TRUE story of Santa Claus. Anything else you have heard is complete nonsense. And the next time someone starts to tell you their version - you just interrupt and tell them ours! You'll be amazed at how fast they get you under lock and key! A merry Christmas to all and to all a good night!

- Andy Arntfield

NOTE: You're right. The title has nothing to do with the story. It really doesn't make sense to us either. Maybe it was written while doing chemistry homework?

Letters:

From Laurence Gillespie: I don't agree with all your statements about the Calhamer Awards but I do think that no one should be allowed to vote in a category which he does not receive every zine carrying the press,, game, or whatever is in question. A voter should know every nominee in a contest he votes in. I think that immediately after the nominations the CA committee should compile a list of eligible voters for each category and these should be the only ones allowed to vote on it. ((That sounds reasonable but you would end up with only 10 or so people who could vote so why not just use the panel system?)) This would not be at all difficult as it would simply require a review of the subscription lists of the zines from which the nominee comes. I don't think that the eligibility requirements should be

any more stringent than that. This would be more all embracing than the committee system suggested by some, which I feel is too exclusory. And as to the question - Are the CA little more than a popularity contest? Well, in a certain way they are but I do not think this is a completely bad thing. After all why does one zine get 225 subbers while another struggles by with 27? ((Many publishers don't want mailing lists over 50)). It is largely because most people feel that the big one has more to offer than the small one, which is why it is big in the first place. The big ones generally are better ones, mainly because the effect of good publicity tends to snowball to the point where more publicity begets more people who read the zine and give it still more favourable reviews. There are other factors in this but I still think that it is a reasonably fair analysis of the thing, as I can name a dozen zines that are quite old that have very limited circulations outside of their players. And anyway, I agree that the awards must not be solit, even though it is pretty obvious that the British certainly did gang vote in a couple of categories, they are certainly outnumbered enough so that it is their right to try to defend their national pride by such weird measures. But giving Richard Walkerdine the distinguished service award, well really!? I think the British acted a bit childishly in a couple of areas, as national pride is certainly not worth trying to sabotage the Awards for.

From Jim Ronson: If you will allow me, I would like to lend my views on your discussion of the CA. First of all I agree with your statement on gang voting when you say that the Britons were merely showing a greater interest in the awards. Where I have to disagree with you is on your statement concerning the publisher who told which way they were going to vote. You said that "the editor was merely trying to help voters who otherwise would just tick off the first familiar name on the list." To use your lingo Bull he was! That sort of demonstration is extremely undemocratic. That is like some respected member of a community casting a public vote in order to influence voters. Anybody who took the trouble to fill out and sincerely consider the ballot would not tick off the first familiar name on the list, or I would hope not.

Another one of the purposes of The International Diplomacy Association is to represent the postal Diplomacy hobby as a whole. You are going to allow a few people to present their own biased ((?)) views for the entire Dippy community. C'mon now!

I think that whoever came up with the suggestion that a special zine be produced to talk about the nominees had the best idea. As Lewis Pulsipher states "unfortunately it would also mean that whichever nominee was favoured by the editor would inevitably receive the best write-up". I agree in this case there can be no God-like objectivity.

What I propose is that the zine be subsidized by the IDA, and have no editor at all. That is, someone would merely publish the data. This would eliminate publishers directly affecting the voting. Each candidate upon accepting the nomination would then write his own statement on what he was attempting to achieve in his particular nomination. Be it in his own zine, as a gamesmaster, in a press release series, etc.. As for the best game they could elect one of the players in the game to write an account of that particular game.

In addition these descriptions could be accompanied by a statement upon the nominator's part as to why he nominated his candidate. I admit that it is possible that the nominator and candidate who can write up the best description of that item might affect the voting but at least we could hear it straight from the horse's mouth. This zine would be sent to all Dippy players. This should make the CA truly democratic and help generate interest which has traditionally been lacking. ((I will refrain from tearing that letter apart because there isn't enough space. So I will leave it up

to the readers to decide how they want the CA given out. Furthur comments on the CA should be sent to John Boyer for discussion in the DR.

The Games

PRESS FOR 1974HF (formerly 1974 Trimunerate).

Turkey: Worldwide negotiations are a Turkish delight. We bar none, as long as they aren't wrapped in deception.

Berlin - The entire city awaits with bated breath for the arrival of the 264 LandKancellörn that make the country's laws. They've been called together to discuss the possibility of a declaration of war against France, who has been acting quite aggressive lately. It is expected that the first black and yellow zeppelins will be arriving in the capital any minute now, black and yellow being the official colours of the LandKancellörn. This meeting of the Land...

Zaabar: Was ist ein LandKancellörn? Das Wort ist nicht in mein Wörterbuch! Laurence, kannst du sagen uns wo man es findest?

FLASH*FLASH*FLASH*FLASH* - a terrific pileup has just been reported on the Autobahn of the air, involving over two hundred and fifty zeppelins! It is reported that the carnage has been terrific and that every ambulance balloon in the capital and surrounding areas has been pressed into service. The terrific pileup as it is called has rendered a seven mile stretch of the aerial Autobahn virtually impassable and thus the capital is now completely cut off from the air. All supplies and foodstuffs will probably have to be driven to the city via the land routes, a scenario vaguely reminiscent of the great "Berlin Landlift" of 1848...At any rate, dozens of air traffic control zeppelins have been rushed to the scene of the accident and a full report is to expected shortly. Very little information has been released as to the cause of this tremendous accident except the fact that traffic authorities are holding in custody the driver of a little red, white, and blue balloon believed to have some connection with the mishap.

1974HF Spring 1901 GERMANY TAKES BURGUNDY - MARSEILLES THREATENED FROM TWO SIDES! DIPLOMATIC AND MILITARY PLANNING INTENSIVE!

England (Dave Truman) f lon-eng, f edi-nth, a liv-yor

France (Jim Lawson) f bre-eng, a par-gas, a mer-spa

Germany (Laurence Gillespie) a mun-bur, f kie-hol, a ber-kie

Italy (Sharon Currie) a ven-pie, a rom-tus, f nap-ion

Austria (Ron Ford) f tri-alb, a bud-ser, a vie-gal

Russia (Jelle Terpstra) a mos-ukr, a war-gal, f stpsc,bot, f sev-rum

Turkey (Larry Doble) a smy-con, a con-bul, f ank-bla

No retreats. Deadline is on the last page. This game is interesting already, keep it up!

1973GP Winter 1906 STALEMATE LINES FORMING BUT IONIAN AREA SEEMS SHAKY ON BOTH SIDES!

Ron Kelly submitted winter orders only so we shall play winter only.

England (Laurence) Build f liv; also has f eng, f nwy, a swe, f bot, f bal, a stp

France (Brian) Build a par, f ~~mar~~; also has a pic, a bur, a pie, a ruh, a mun, a tun, f ber, f lyo, f wme

Austria (Richard) Builds a bud; also has a's ven, tyl, boh, vie, nap, f's tri, ion

Russia (Larry) Removes f con; also has f aeg, a's sil, pru, war, gal, liv, mos

Press for this game should be on an attached sheet. If I forget to include it just ask and I will send it to you. If the typing looks worse than usual or if you see a swear word it is the fault of the typewriter.

1972BE Winter 1909

Ron Kelly submitted winter orders only so we shall play winter only.
France (Ron) Build f mar; also has f's mid, wal, lyo, wne, lon, bulsc, con
a's bur, ruh, mun, tus
Austria (Terry) Build a tri; also has f ven, f gre, a's boh, vie, bud,
ser, rom
Russia (JH) Builds f stpnc, a mos, fseve (no room for fourth build) also
has f's liv, nth, lon, kie, con a's hol, sil, war, gal, ukr, rum
And Terry actually apologized for not submitting any press!

THE MINDLESS REPRESENTATIVE

andy arntfield (who else?)

VARIOUS PORTIONS OF THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE HAVE BEEN OMITTED FOR DARN GOOD REASONS. THE NAMES HAVE BEEN CHANGED TO PROTECT THE INNOCENT.

Hello, my name is Andy Arntfield. I am just sitting here at this crummy typewriter (yes, that was a strikeover, for all you typing fans) making a fool of myself typing inane comments on anything and everything, (that comma should have been a period - excuse me please I won't do it again) It could be that I just don't know what to do with myself and am just filling my time with this, but then again that's what life's all about q (that "q" should be a comma) isn't it? Doug is working on Berserker (which is totally amazing isn't it?). Life is just a bowl of cherries, or bananas, depending on who you are * (g *** (ignore those last few things - they aren't really there) or even sour grapes for people like Harold or harry (with a capital) (somehow those two just don't go together in the same sentence) $\frac{1}{2}$ or even $\frac{1}{4}$. Maybe eben (with a v) 5%. But then again who cares? !!!!! (those exclamation marks were the creation of modern tach (with an e) nology - 5 (five) periods and five (5) quote thingies). Anywho I am getting sort of hungry and sick of typing this Ø (ignore) so I am suddenly going to stop. (continued in 2nd paragraph) THE SECOND PARAGRAPH IS COMING RIGHT UP!

THIS IS IT! THE SECOND PARAGRAPH! RIGHT HERE IN FRONT OF YOU! (aren't you thrilled?) Well, to continue where we left off (referring to myself in the plural), punch (I just had to fit that in there somewhere) Period. The Eng. Cut. Stop. Terminate. Finish. and also a nice round 8. (That duzzent make Ø?) (). That means that I don't think much about it. And pacing is bad for the...snot running down his nose (I'm listening to Aqualung and it sort of got to me) Got. (somehow). Anyhow - continuing where I left off - feet. Sorry for all the spelling mistakes in this and for all the people who were offended by this and of course a big thank you to all the people who made this possible. First to all my English teachers since Grade 1, and of course to the editors for putting up with a tempermental genius. (don't you just love that line 'snot running down his nose'? It's just so poetic) See you later. (just how much you'll never know) END.
DEADLINE - JANUARY 7 / 75 - MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL! -

864 Ingersoll Ct.
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L5J 2S1 CANADA



Walt Buchanan

RR 3

Lebanon, Ind

46052



TIME DATED MATERIAL - PLEASE DO NOT DELAY!

AIR MAIL

U.S.A.